

MINERS NOW MORE PROSPEROUS

Observers in Anthracite Centres Cite Bank Returns to Prove Operators' Point.

Prosperity prevails, according to observers in the principal anthracite mining centres, among the workers such as they never before have experienced. That is a summary of special analyses made for The Tribune following the deadlock in the coal strike situation. In their formal statement made late last Friday the operators asserted that since 1900 the wage advances have exceeded 25 per cent and the number of working days a year reached 240, the maximum in the trade.

The principal plea of the men for an increase at this time is the high cost of living. Those on the ground who are familiar with the situation say the miners, by reason of the wage advances and greater amount of time in the mines, are more prosperous than they ever were. Savings bank returns, manner of living and improvement in homes are cited in support of that view. The special reports from Wilkes-Barre, Scranton and Pottsville follow:

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Wilkes-Barre, Penn., March 17.—Most of the business men and bankers of the anthracite region agree with the coal operators that the mine workers have been much better off in the last nine years than they were before, and that the increase in the total amount earned by them has been more than the 10 per cent increase granted by the strike commission. They judge this from business and bank records.

Bankers say that the savings deposits in the small towns where coal mining is the only industry have increased on an average of almost 100 per cent during the last eight years, the comparison for last year being made with 1904, when the 10 per cent increase and the sliding scale increase were in effect. In some of the small towns the increase has been as much as 120 to 134 per cent increase in savings deposits, while in the large cities of the region, like Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, Hazleton and Pottsville, the increase in savings deposits is about 65 per cent. This, the bankers say, is largely owing to the increased prosperity of the mine workers, due to the advance in wages and the steady work.

The business men say the improvement in the business is an indication that the mine workers have been more prosperous in the last eight years than they ever were.

Bankers and business men both admit that the cost of living has increased, but they say that the mine workers are apparently living as well as if not better than they were before the strike commission made its award, are buying as freely of clothes and house furnishings and are apparently saving more money.

Most of the business men are opposed to a strike, and are inclined to uphold the operators' contention that the conditions do not warrant an increase in wages.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Scranton, Penn., March 17.—While the feeling is general among business men here that the three-year period now closing has been the most prosperous for the miners in the history of anthracite mining, few are voicing this opinion and none will talk for publication. Lines are sharply drawn by the union men, and utterances that might affect the chances of the leaders for driving a better bargain with the operators than they were able to gain three years ago would be resented. Realizing this, the men whose opinions would be entirely impartial are, generally speaking, keeping their views to themselves.

The Scranton Board of Trade, composed of retail merchants, manufacturers and representatives of corporations and civic organizations who are interested in the prosperity and growth of the city, is, of necessity, standing on neutral ground. A

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[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Scranton, Penn., March 17.—It was with deep regret that President White's declaration that "all negotiations are off" was received by the people of the anthracite region as the mine workers' ultimatum, unless there is an unexpected concession from the operators, which is hardly looked for even by the United Mine Workers themselves. It seems that a strike is inevitable.

The outcome of the conferences between the committees representing the mine workers and the operators is decidedly disappointing. The hard coal region of Pennsylvania enjoyed unprecedented prosperity.

General conditions back up the record of the mines, that from 1897 to 1901, inclusive, the average number of days worked was 240, with a mean average of 165 days. From 1901 to 1906 the average number of working days was 240. This means, following the strike of 1906, and the further benefits secured the miners through the sliding scale created at the same time, that the miners, by reason of an increase of 27 per cent in their working time, supplement their earnings to that extent.

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WORLD AVER COAL STRIKE

Operators Point to Possibility of Holding New Conferences.

THIS HAPPENED BEFORE

E. E. Loomis Says Relations Between Owners and Miners Are Not Strained.

An impression seemed to prevail yesterday among some of the coal dealers and anthracite operators that when the expected suspension of work in the anthracite collieries took place, April 1, there would be a good chance that the operators and the conference committee of the mine workers might come together again.

Both sides have said they would not recede from their respective positions, but the committees did not part without the understanding that there was a suspension of work because the demands of the mine workers were refused, followed by new conferences, and the renewal of the agreement under the award of the anthracite strike commission, which the mine workers had previously refused to accept.

E. E. Loomis, vice-president of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company, who has had more to do with the mine workers than any of the other officials of this road, said yesterday that while there was a similarity in the circumstances following the refusal of the demands of the mine workers when their last agreement expired, he would not predict whether or not there would be a strike. Nothing had happened so far to prevent renewal of conferences if a new proposal was made which would form the basis for negotiations.

"The relations between the companies and the mine workers are not strained in any way," he continued. "Up to the present their relations have been friendly and there has been no actual breach of contract. The mine workers do not want to strike, but they have been earning good wages, and worked more days last year than any preceding year."

On the subject of the supply of coal he said there was a normal supply for any year when no strike was expected, but the demand for anthracite had been greater than usual on account of the long and severe winter. The companies and operators are advancing the price at present, he said, though prices had been advanced by a number of independent operators; but the circulars announcing the usual discount of 50 cents a ton, which goes into effect on April 1, and is increased 10 cents a month until winter prices are regained, would not be issued until all trouble was over—whether in the way of a suspension or a strike.

Asked what he thought of the bill of Congressmen Lee to bring the mines under Federal control, which would give the government now only to railroads, he said he could not discuss the matter offhand. The arbitrators under the Erdman act could not enforce their decisions, but might reduce the chances of a strike to a minimum.

Henry C. Fleming chairman of the Bituminous Coal Trade Association, composed of soft coal operators, and other representatives of the association said that the situation, so far as bituminous coal was concerned, had not changed for several days. He said he would not change until the conference between the bituminous operators and miners had been held. Mr. Fleming added that no meeting of the association had been arranged for in the mean time.

Among a number of labor leaders in this city yesterday was Frank J. Hayes, vice-president of the United Mine Workers, who said that it was for the anthracite operators to avert a strike or suspension of mining on April 1. The men would stop work after midnight of March 31 unless the operators abandoned their present position. As to the soft coal situation, he continued, anything that might be said would be mere guesswork prior to the conference on March 29 between the committees of the bituminous operators and bituminous miners.

The organ of the Lake Region's Union in a recent issue quoted a paper which it said was an organ of the Illinois coal operators as stating that there was a movement for an alliance between the miners and the railroad brotherhoods, by which union miners would not mine coal for use on railroads whose employees were on strike, and in return railroad employees would not aid in shipping coal mined by non-union miners, and that the mine workers, through their organization, endorsed this plan.

The railroad brotherhoods never have gone into any sympathetic strike, however, and have kept aloof from entangling alliances. The United Mine Workers is an American Federation of Labor organization, besides, while none of the railroad brotherhoods, except the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, is in the American Federation of Labor.

WARNING TO CANDIDATES

U. S. Law Requires Filing of Primary Expenses in Detail.

[From The Tribune Bureau.] Washington, March 17.—A timely warning was issued today to candidates at primary elections, as follows: "In view of the fact that primaries are being held throughout the country, not only for the election of delegates to the national conventions, but also primaries and nominating conventions are being held for the selection of candidates for Congress. It may be well to point out to the provisions of the act relating to the publication of contributions made for the purpose of influencing elections at which representatives in Congress are elected, as amended at the last session and approved August 19, 1911. Section 8 of the amended act reads, in part, as follows:

Every person who shall be a candidate for nomination at any primary election or nominating convention for election at any general or special election, as representative in the Congress of the United States, shall, within fifteen days before the day of the general or special election at which candidates for representatives are to be elected, file with the clerk of the House of Representatives at Washington, District of Columbia, a full, correct and itemized statement of all money and things of value received by him or by any one for him, with his knowledge and consent, from any source, in aid or support of his candidacy, together with the names of all those who have furnished the same, in whole or in part; and such statement, together with all such receipts, contributions or promises were made, for the purpose of procuring his nomination or election.

Subsequent paragraphs of this section apply the same rule to United States Senators, and also specify that within thirty days after any such general or special election there shall be filed with the clerk of the House of Representatives or with the secretary of the Senate itemized statements of all moneys received and disbursed. The details of the act are simple enough, and the candidates are well advised to comply with the provisions of the act.

TWO ROOSEVELT DELEGATES.

Clinton, Okla., March 17.—Delegates of the 24 Oklahoma Congress District to the Republican National Convention chosen yesterday are A. G. Paul of Oklahoma City and J. B. Major of Muskogee County. They were instructed for Roosevelt.

ROOSEVELT'S TOUR PLANS

First of Whirlwind Speeches To Be Made in Chicago.

WILL BE GONE SIX DAYS

Says He Has Left Out New York State Because He Is Not Worried About Home Conditions.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.] Oyster Bay, March 17.—Theodore Roosevelt received a big bunch of shamrocks yesterday by mail from Ireland. The inscription on the green ribbon read, "From your admirers in County Wicklow."

Colonel Roosevelt goes out to Huntington tomorrow on the quest of the parish of St. Patrick's Church. The Rev. Father York, the rector, will introduce him to his parishioners on the occasion of their St. Patrick's Day celebration. It's only a "handshaking" affair, the Colonel says, and he does not expect to make a speech.

Mr. Roosevelt's preconcert speaking tour was outlined today. It opens, of course, Wednesday night at Carnegie Hall with the "Shall the people rule" speech before the Civic Forum, but the first division of the whirlwind tour opens next week Tuesday in Chicago, according to the Colonel's announcement. He will be in New York on the way home, he said, to Minneapolis or St. Paul. He expects to be gone at least six days, and on the way home will make several rear platform speeches in West Virginia, at the urgent request of Governor Glasscock, one of the seven Governors who persuaded him to toss his hat into the ring.

Week after next will probably see the Colonel in Concord, N. H. From there he will run up to Portland, Me., providing the question of preferential primaries isn't knocked in the head before he can get there. On the way home he will stop off in Boston on the strength of the preferential primaries just enacted in the Bay State.

"Before I go to Chicago it is possible that I may speak on the East Side in New York," he said. "However, that is a little uncertain now. I shall not go into North Dakota, as I have said before, and there will be no Southern tour."

Silent on La Follette Report.

The Colonel would not discuss the report that his managers conceded North Dakota to La Follette. The third and last week of the tour will be devoted to Philadelphia, and possibly other large cities in Pennsylvania, although Mr. Roosevelt says he is quite satisfied with the situation there. In the week of April 7 he will be heard in Newark, N. J. On May 30 he will speak on the Gettysburg battlefield to several thousand members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

The campaign, as will be seen, practically eliminates a tour of New York State. The Colonel explained this today by saying that he was not worrying about the situation at home. "I feel certain of twenty delegates," he said, "and if the state primary law wasn't such a hard one I'd have the majority delegation."

In this connection, his attention was drawn to the prediction of a collapse for the Roosevelt boom in New York, made on Saturday by Senator Keeney, president of the New York County Committee. Mr. Keeney said: "With a single exception of Oscar Straus, no representative Republicans of the county are now connected with the former President, whose managers have bungled so badly that it is a question whether the Roosevelt headquarters will be kept open until primary day."

"As I remember it, Oscar Straus is a Democrat, appointed to the Cabinet by President Cleveland, and later Minister to Turkey," said Mr. Roosevelt with a hearty laugh. "The first thing Mr. Keeney knows, he will be saying 'Bill' Ward and ex-Judge Duell are not regular Republicans."

Some one showed Mr. Roosevelt an editorial from a New York newspaper today condemning as false press dispatches from Kansas purporting to show that the Democratic convention there had declared in favor of nominating Woodrow Wilson if it should be shown that Champ Clark could not be nominated.

"It is a fair sample of the garbled press reports of the conventions in Indianapolis, where the vote was two to one for me," said Mr. Roosevelt. "Down in Evansville, Turkey, I saw the reports were garbled worse than ever. There the convention declared for me five to one, on the word of Senator Beveridge."

Mr. Roosevelt said Governor Hadley told him that the Eastern newspapers had published malicious and deceiving reports of Taft gains in Missouri. "What about the report that your managers are out to capture the Republican National Committee?" was asked.

"It's untrue, every word of it," Mr. Roosevelt replied. "I have heard from several members who have been with me. As a matter of fact, I don't care what position the committee takes in regard to President Taft. All we ask of them is a square deal in passing on the contested delegates. That's all we could expect anyway, isn't it?"

Mr. Roosevelt and Miss Ethel will return to Sagamore Hill next Tuesday after their three weeks' trip to Panama. The Colonel will meet them in New York and start with them for Oyster Bay as soon as they land. He expects to return to New York and spend the night at the home of his sister, Mrs. Douglas Robinson, at No. 9 East 63rd street, where he will remain until he makes his Carnegie Hall speech on Wednesday night.

ROOSEVELT WINS STRAW VOTE

Taft Close Second Among Students of New York University.

In a straw ballot taken at New York University yesterday among fifteen hundred students of the different departments Theodore Roosevelt received the most votes as the first choice for President, with President Taft second and Governor Wilson of New Jersey third. The ballot was taken without any previous canvassing among the students. Most of the students are voters living in New York.

The ballot was taken among the regular classes of the College of Arts and the professional schools of applied science, law, medicine, and commerce, accounts and finance. From these schools 1,459 ballots were taken, the students being asked to give their first and second choice for President.

For first choice Roosevelt received 458 ballots Taft 456 and Wilson 209, with other candidates trailing in the rear. A second choice for the office was named by 1,318, and these ballots were divided as follows: Taft, 318; Wilson, 293, and Roosevelt, 299. Counting the total ballots cast for first and second choice, President Taft assumes the lead, with a total of 775 votes; Roosevelt, second, with 656, and Wilson, third, with 512.

A comparison of the results by schools shows that Taft was first choice in the College of Arts and in the law school. In the school of applied science there was a tie between Taft and Roosevelt, while the Medical College and the school of commerce, accounts and finance gave first choice to Roosevelt.

MAINE MAY SWING BACK

City Elections Indicate It Will Be Republican Again.

DEMOCRATS MEET TUESDAY

First State Convention This Year to Pick Baltimore Delegates—Recent Vote Analyzed.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.] Augusta, Me., March 17.—The biennial state convention of the Democratic party of Maine, which will be held in Augusta on Tuesday, will be the first state body in New England to select delegates to a national political convention. It will also be the first state convention of any party in Maine since the direct primary act became a law.

The principal duties of the convention under the new law will be the framing of a platform for the state election next September, the selection of twelve delegates and twelve alternates to the Democratic National Convention at Baltimore, in June, and the nomination of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, to be voted for next November.

Maine will go Republican this year by 8,000 or more votes, if the spring elections in thirteen cities are a true index of the trend of public sentiment. This is true, despite the fact that the Democrats elected the mayors in ten of the thirteen cities, exactly the same number that they elected in 1911. The cities are Augusta, Auburn, Bath, Belfast, Biddeford, Eastport, Ellsworth, Hallowell, Lewiston, Rockland, South Portland, Saco and Waterville.

Shows Heavy Republican Gain.

The vote on the head of the ticket in these cities at the 1910 state election and 1912 municipal elections was:

	Governor, 1910.	Mayor, 1912.
Democratic	13,708	10,220
Republican	10,491	10,220
Democratic plurality	3,217	1,000

The total votes for mayors were only 95 less than the total party votes for Governor, yet the Democrats lost 1,317 and the Republicans gained 1,021 in the thirteen cities between the elections. The Democratic loss, if in exactly the same proportion in the whole state next September, will bring the party vote down from 73,000 to 65,624. Similarly, the Republican gain would bring the party vote up from 64,444 to 71,789. The Democratic plurality of 8,856 in 1910 would be replaced by a Republican plurality of 6,165.

The Democratic strength at the city elections last year showed a decline, but local issues entered largely into the vote in March, 1911. This year state politics have received more attention than local politics. This is especially true of Augusta, the residence of the Democratic Governor, Frederick W. Plaford, who seeks re-election, and of ex-representative Edwin C. Burleigh, who is a Republican candidate for United States Senator to be elected next year. Both men showed interest in the local campaign, and it became so strenuous that Governor Plaford set a new precedent for Maine Governors by going on the stump in the municipal campaign. The vote of Augusta at the two compared elections was as follows:

	Governor, 1910.	Mayor, 1912.
Democratic	1,408	1,320
Republican	1,15	